

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231, on:

Date:

August 5, 2002

By:

Jennifer Mahoney
Jennifer L. Mahoney

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hooper, et al.

APPLICATION No.: 09/938,439

FILED: August 23, 2001

FOR: MULTIPLE-SITE SAMPLE-HANDLING
APPARATUS AND METHOD

EXAMINER: Not yet Assigned

ART UNIT: 1743

CONFIRMATION No.: 4124

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

**Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of
Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last [37 CFR 1.97(b)]. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

☒ Copies of the following references are enclosed:

- ☒ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

☐ Copies of the following references can be found in parent U.S. Application No.

- ☐ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

- ☐ The following references are not in English. For each such reference, the undersigned has enclosed (i) a translation of the reference; (ii) a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office or International Searching Authority citing the reference, (iii) a copy of a reference which appears to be an English-language counterpart, or (iv) an English-language abstract for the reference prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the translation, English-language counterpart or third-party abstract is an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.

- ☐ All cited references
☐ References marked by ampersands
☐ The following:

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

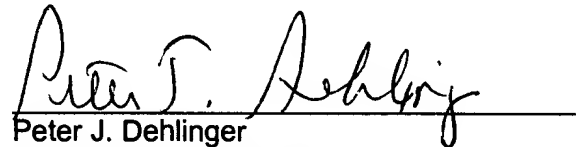
No fees are believed due. However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 CFR 1.704(d))

- ☐ The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 08-05-02


 Peter J. Dehlinger
 Registration No. 28,006

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 22918
 (650) 838-4300



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number	9/938,439
Confirmation Number	4124
Filing Date	August 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hooper, et al.
Group Art Unit	1743
Examiner Name	Not yet Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	50225.8057.US01

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			

RECEIVED
AUG 15 2002
TC 1700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Cite No.	Foreign Patent or Application			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)				
		EP	0 430 248	A2	Mochida	06/05/91		

OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).

BY022170.003